

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15, 17-18, 20-21, and 23-26 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 15, 17-18, and 20-21 have been amended. Claims 23-26 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 1-15, 17-18, 20-21, and 23-26 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kitsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,713) in view of Kaiser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408) and Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,774). Claims 4-5, 7-8, 15, 17-18, and 20-21 are rejected as being obvious over Kitsukawa, Kaiser, and Jones, in view of Blackketter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,438). Claims 10-14 are rejected as being obvious over Kitsukawa, Kaiser, and Jones in view of Moriyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,746). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a tuner receiving a broadcast signal including annotation data, the annotation data including graphics data for overlaying a graphics image on a video frame, the graphics image being associated with a video object." Neither Kaiser nor any of the other cited references teach or suggest this limitation.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that a "memory stores a computer program that determines, when executed by said central processing unit, whether the video object is visible in the video frame, and controls display of the associated graphics image on said display device responsive to a determination that the video object is visible in the video frame." None of the cited references teach or suggest this limitation. Any overlaying of graphic image that may be taught in the cited references is done without any affirmative determination of "whether the video object is visible in the video frame." Thus, the cited references fail to teach or suggest a central processing unit that "controls display of the associated graphics image on the display

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device responsive to a determination that the video object is visible in the video frame." (Emphasis added). Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 15 recites a "method of using broadcast information comprising hyperlinked annotation data," where the method includes "decoding said broadcast information to recover graphics data for overlaying a graphics image on a video frame, the graphics image being associated with a video object; . . . determining whether the video object is visible in a video frame; and overlaying the graphics image on the video frame responsive to a determination that the video object is visible in the video frame," which, for the reasons explained above with respect to claim 1, are not taught nor suggested by any of the cited references.

Independent claim 21 recites a "method of broadcasting information comprising hyperlinked annotation data" where the method includes "encoding mask information having a mask time stamp and visibility indicia associated therewith, the visibility indicia indicative of whether one or more objects in an associated video frame are enabled for being visually identified for a particular video shot; and transmitting said encoded mask information in conjunction with a video signal for display in a temporal relation with said video signal based on said mask time stamp and further based on a determination based on the visibility indicia that the one or more objects are enabled for being visually identified." (Emphasis added). None of the cited references teach or suggest mask information having the recited "visibility indicia," or the recited use of the "visibility indicia." Accordingly, claim 21 is also in condition for allowance.

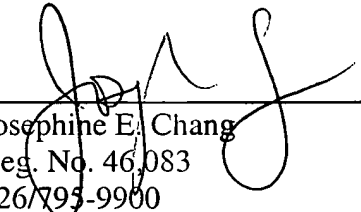
Claims 23-26 are new in this application. Claims 25 and 26 were formerly claims 19 and 22, respectively, which have now been reinstated into the application. Claims 23-26 are in condition for allowable because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain. Specifically with respect to claim 23, this claim specifies that "the determination that the video object is visible in the video frame is based on a visibility indicia included with the annotation data, the visibility indicia indicative of whether the video object is visible in the video frame," which is not taught nor suggested by the cited references.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 1-15, 17-18, 20-21, and 23-26 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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